

To Environment Committee Chairmen Sen. Christine Cohen, Rep. Joseph Gresko, and Distinguished Members

And

Transportation Committee Chairmen Sen. Will Haskell, Rep. Roland Lemar, and Distinguished Members:

I am in support of bill SB-4, An Act Concerning the Connecticut Clean Air Act. As we currently face increased fuel prices, non-attainment of air quality standards, and the multitude of negative effects from a car-centric society, it is incredibly important to accelerate the switch from combustion vehicles to electric vehicles, active transportation, and public transportation.

In particular, I believe the sections of the bill expanding the electric vehicle rebate to include electric bicycles and the requirement for developers to offset greenhouse gas emissions by improving non-vehicular access are wonderful. I have heard from numerous local people as well as online social media that electric bicycles are a game-changer when it comes to replacing vehicle trips. With the majority of car trips only a few miles in length, using an electric bicycle instead for these journeys costs less, reduces pollution, takes up less space on the road, and is ultimately more enjoyable. People who cannot afford a vehicle or simply do not want to own a vehicle should be able to purchase an electric bicycle with a rebate that reflects the clear benefits over buying a combustion vehicle.

**We are asking for several amendments to the SB-4 bill language-** the first is to increase the proposed cap on eligible bicycles from \$2,000 to *at least* \$3,000 to be able to include more of the car replacing electric cargo bikes and the inventory typically sold by local bike shops. The second is to add two seats to the advisory committee - one for a bicycle organization or bicycle shops representative and for the PURA chair. We would like to see the amount of the rebate increased for EJ communities and LMI individuals from \$500 to *at least* \$1,000.

Adam Weber

Hamden, CT